

oxidase A enzyme." One carries out the determining step by evaluating the allelic profile of that gene in the subject, as is described, for example, in paragraph [00039] of the specification. This employs a system, as in Claim 22 of Group III, "for obtaining from the subject a sample suitable for producing an allelic profile of a gene that encodes monoamine oxidase A enzyme."

Also within the scope of the Group I claims are methods that employ, in the determining step, an amplification primer pair that distinguishes the at-risk allele from another allele (Claim 12), as well as claims that employ a SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO:2 primer pair (Claim 13). As in these claims, kit claims of Group III also provide an amplification primer pair that distinguishes the at-risk allele from another allele (Claim 24) and a SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO:2 primer pair (Claim 26).

The same analysis holds in connection with the aspects of the Group I claims directed to establishing a subject's relationship to the environmental risk factor. Claim 1 further recites "determining whether the subject has experienced, or is at risk of experiencing, the environmental risk factor." As this can be most readily established by asking the subject about his or her experience and life situation, "a questionnaire that solicits input about a subject relevant to the subject's experience with . . . a pathogenic environmental risk factor," as in Claim 22, is an appropriate tool for doing so that would be revealed in any search of a method that includes the further determining step.

Accordingly, a search of the subject matter of Group I will necessarily uncover the subject matter of the Group III claims. As a result, both the Patent Office and Applicants will benefit from the simultaneous examination of Group I and Group III in a single application. The Patent Office benefits by not duplicating its searching and examining efforts. Likewise, the Applicants will be spared the costs associated with prosecuting two separate applications for these closely related claim sets.


Reconsideration of the requirement for restriction is respectfully requested.

Fees

A petition for a one-month extension of time accompanies this response so that the response will be deemed to have been timely filed. No other extension of time is believed due, but should any additional extension be due, in this or any subsequent response, please consider this to be a petition for the appropriate extension and a request to charge the extension fee to Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

No additional fees are believed due; however, if any fees are due, in this or any subsequent response, please charge Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennett Be", written over a horizontal line.

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